Lafayette Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 133, Lafayette, California 94549

President: Oliver Hamlin (o. 283-6822; h. 284-1446)
Editor: Shirley Thomson (o. 935-2270; h. 284-2995)

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March 1989

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here and it is time for some activities again.

Be sure to mark your calendars to attend our ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 1989, at the Lafayette Veterans Hall. It's a great experience and fine tradition. A spring "field trip" visit to Ardenwood Farm and Patterson House has been arranged for Saturday, June 3. More information on both events can be found in the following pages.

The Lafayette Historical Society is still interested in working with the City of Lafayette and its Park and Recreation Commission to establish a site for some sort of a historical building and/or museum. The issue has been discussed several times but not yet resolved. If and when we find a suitable building, we definitely will need a designated place to put it. The location at the Lafayette Community Center and Park on St. Mary's Road is a real possibility, but we have not given up on finding a site in downtown Lafayette. We will keep pursuing this idea.

In another part of this newsletter you will find our request for 1989 dues. Our Board has voted to increase the dues after all these years from $5 to $10 per year (big deal!); we are trying to build up a fund to use on the historical site if and when it becomes available. Many thanks for your continued support and prompt remittance.

Ollie Hamlin

Tuesday, May 9, 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER

Lafayette Veterans Building, Lower Level

WE REMEMBER . . .

The Society regrets the recent death and loss to the community of Ruth Holton, Mickey Meyers, Orville Jones, and Martin Cogburn.

Ruth Holton was a member of the Friends of the Lafayette Library committee that founded the Lafayette Historical Society. She was a long-time dedicated volunteer, a willing worker who gave many hours to the work of our Archives Committee.

Mickey Meyers, generous volunteer, contributed greatly to the Lafayette community. His nearly fifty years of energetic work for the Lafayette Lions Club in particular made his friendly face well-known.

Orville Jones, a member of the first Board of Directors of the Society, was a descendant of pioneer Nathaniel Jones who arrived in California in 1846, settled in Lafayette, and became the first sheriff of Contra Costa County.

Martin Cogburn also left his mark on Lafayette; among many other activities, he served on our first City Council.

1989 DUES

Dues for 1989 are payable now. Please complete the "Member Information" form to be found in this newsletter and return it with your dues payment ($10 for family membership, $50 for business membership, $100 for life membership) as soon as possible.

A red * on your address label indicates dues unpaid for 1988—happily there are only a few. Payment of $15 for family membership ($5 for 1988) and ($10 for 1989) will bring you up to date.

Membership Chair Jack Bailey will be on hand at the Annual Meeting on May 9 and will gladly receive dues payments there.

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Society's Board of Directors and Committee Chairs is set for 7:30 p.m., Wednesday evening, March 12, at Oliver Hamlin's home. Member attendance is welcomed; please call Ollie (283-6822 or 284-1446) for information and directions.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS OF OTHER CONTRA COSTA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

April 8.....State History Day celebrated at Los Medanos College, 9:00 - 2:00. Call the college for information.

April 20.....Antioch Hist. Soc.—Special meeting at the museum, 7:00 p.m.

April 21.....Clayton Hist. Soc.—Spring meeting and potluck at Endeavor Hall, 6:30 p.m. Call 672-2043 for more information.

April.....Moraga Hist. Soc.—All-day trip to Petaluma/Vallejo Rancho by bus to view historic structures. Call 376-9677 for specific date.

May 18.....San Ramon Valley Hist. Soc.—Program meeting featuring Bertram Minkin, the Burma Shave Man. Call 837-0369 for information.

May.....Contra Costa Co. Hist. Soc.—Oral history workshop of two Saturday sessions. Call the History Center at 939-9180 for information.

May.....Moraga Hist. Soc.—All-day bus trip to Gold Country. Call 376-9677.

July 4.....Clayton Hist. Soc.—Auction at the museum, 12:00 noon. Call 672-0240 for more information.

Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner
Tuesday - May 9, 1989 - 6:00 p.m.

6:00 - Refreshments and Social Hour — 7:00 - Dinner

8:00 - Program and Entertainment
by the Harmonizers - Barbershop Style Singing

The Harmonizers, a mixed group of singers, will sing some "oldies" and some "newies" in good old-fashioned harmony.

Please bring a dish of eight servings for each person attending. Hearty salads, meat or seafood entrees, and side dishes are needed. Board members will bring desserts. Dinner drinks will be provided. There is plenty of oven and refrigerator space, so dishes will be served as the cook intends. Please also bring a serving utensil for your dish (with your name on it).

Potluck dinner chair is Richard Johnson (283-0199). Please call Richard or Program Chair George Wasson (283-4420) if you have any questions.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROGRAMS TO COME . . .

June 1989 –

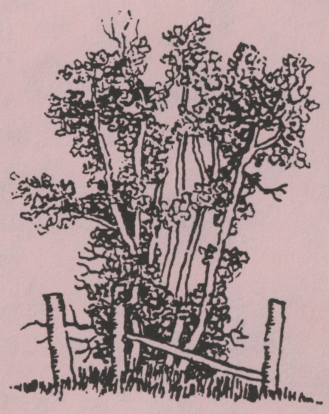
Early summer tour to Ardenwood Farm. Please see article that follows for further information.

Fall 1989 –

The history of gravestones, their development and changes through the years will be our topic. A noted authority on this form of monument may be available for our fall program tentatively scheduled for mid-November. More information will be made available when date, time, and place are set.

May 1990 –

"FARMS in Berkeley; DAIRIES in Lafayette" – This is to be the program topic for next spring's annual meeting and potluck. We have a tentative commitment from Bob MacNeil and other descendants of the dairy owners to present a program on dairy farms of Lafayette. The MacNeil Dairy, originally in the "downtown" area, later moved to the bottom of Reliez Station Road at Beechwood and Olympic Boulevard. The Alta Crest Dairy of the Machado family was located in the Silver Springs area. Others had dairy cattle in Lafayette and sold cream to bottlers in the East Bay. We are hoping for a good program of pictures and words from those who remember the dairy activities from first-hand experience.



ADVANCE NOTICE – LATE SPRING TOUR
Ardenwood Farm and Patterson House
Saturday, June 3

Arrangements have been made for an all-day outing to Ardenwood Farm and Patterson House in Fremont (near Dumbarton Bridge off Route 84) on Saturday, June 3.

This is a working farm, a collection of "old timer" farm equipment and a historical old home. The home was begun in 1850 and had a large addition in 1890. There will be a tour of the home, a working blacksmith shop, a horse-drawn railroad, wagon rides, and timely farming demonstrations.

This is planned as a family oriented program, including children attractions. We will try to reserve a part of a picnic area for our group. We may also coordinate our tour with other Lafayette groups or activities to make our group a little larger. We have reserved the one o'clock tour of the house for twenty people; there are many other times for house tours during the day, so everyone should be accommodated.

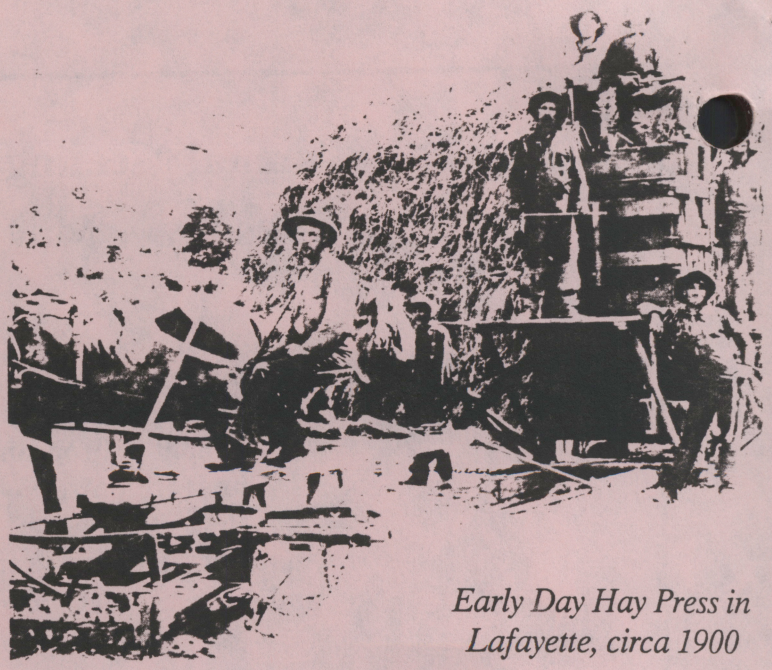
Price of admission, including the house tour, is $5 for adults, $3 for seniors aged 62 and over, $2.50 for children aged 4-18. Children under 4 are free.

Carpooling is recommended and we will try to coordinate rides; please call George Wasson at 283-4420 if you are a driver or if you are in need of a ride.

Suggested June 3 schedule:

9:00 a.m. .. Meet at Stanley School for ride grouping
10:30 ..... Arrive at Ardenwood
12:00 ..... Picnic
1:00 p.m. .. House tour for 20 (other tours available)
p.m. ..... Return at drivers' choice

A notice and sign-up sheet will follow in mid-May; put it on your calendar now!



Early Day Hay Press in Lafayette, circa 1900

1988–1989
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Oliver Hamlin ..... *President / Bd. Dir.*
Barbara Bailey ..... *Archives / Clippings*
Jack Bailey ..... *Corresp. Sec. / Membership / Bd. Dir.*
Ruth Dyer ..... *Recording Sec. / Sales / Bd. Dir.*
Nancy Holtzapple ..... *Treasurer / Bd. Dir.*
Dick Johnson ..... *Annual Potluck Dinner*
Elizabeth Johnston ..... *Bd. Dir.*
Sandy Kimball ..... *Publicity*
Ray Peters ..... *Vice Pres. / Plaza Park Rep. / Bd. Dir.*
Lee Schell ..... *Bd. Dir*
Bill Somerton ..... *Bd. Dir.*
Shirley Thomson ..... *Newsletter*
Irene Van Overveen ..... *Bd. Dir.*
Bill Wakeman ..... *Landmarks / Bd. Dir.*
George Wasson ..... *Program / Fire Engine*
Betsy Willcuts ..... *Walking Tours / Bd. Dir.*

Ardenwood was named after a forested area described in Shakespeare's As You Like It.

Lafayette Historical Society

POST OFFICE BOX 133 LAFAYETTE, CALIF. 94549

MEMBER INFORMATION

last name	first name	spouse's first name
street address	phone number	
city, state, zip code	date	

Annual dues: Please check appropriate box, attach check in the amount shown, and mail to Lafayette Historical Society, P.O. Box 133, Lafayette, California 94549.

[ ] $10.00 - Family membership
[ ] $ 2.50 - Student membership
[ ] $ 50.00 - Business membership
[ ] $100.00 - Life membership

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

Collect, preserve, and make available to researchers and the public Lafayette's records, historic materials, and photographs

Disseminate historical information and encourage public interest in local history through programs, exhibits, and field trips

Maintain "Old Betsy," Lafayette's early fire engine ~~~ *Conduct walking tours*

Identify and mark historic sites ~ *Publish local history* ~ *Record and preserve oral histories*

PLEASE CHECK AREAS OF INTEREST

[ ] Archives
[ ] Landmarks
[ ] Fire engine
[ ] Telephone committee
[ ] Other:
[ ] Oral history
[ ] Photograph collection
[ ] Newspaper clippings
[ ] Walking tours
[ ] Annual potluck dinner committee

ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER

Tuesday, May 9, 1989 — 6:00 pm

LAFAYETTE VETERANS HALL

First Street at Mt. Diablo Boulevard

Barbershop Style Singing

by The Harmonizers

LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 133
Lafayette, California 94549

FIRST CLASS MAIL